IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body comprising providing cordierite forming materials comprising an Al source, an Si source, and an Mg source, and firing the materials to form cordierite, wherein the Al source and the Si source are at least partially provided by inorganic micro balloons containing Al_2O_3 and SiO_2, wherein a moisture content of the inorganic micro balloons is less than 0.1% by mass ~~or less~~ and wherein a content of the Si source and the Al source included in the inorganic microballoons is 90% by mass or more.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein a crush strength of the inorganic micro balloons, measured by a micro compression tester, is 1 MPa or more.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein a moisture content of the inorganic micro balloons is 0.08% by mass or less.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic micro balloons are obtained by calcining at 300°C or more.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein a content of a sodium compound and a potassium compound

included in the inorganic micro balloons is 0.2 to 2% by mass, when the sodium compound is converted to Na_2O, and the potassium compound is converted to K_2O.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein a melting point of the inorganic micro balloon balloons is 1400 to 1650°C.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein a tap density of the inorganic micro balloons is 0.5 g/cm^3 or less.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein talc is used as a part or all of the Mg source.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein the Al source further comprises aluminum hydroxide ($Al(OH)_3$).

11. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein the Al source further comprises 20 to 52% by mass of kaolin with respect to an amount of the inorganic micro balloons.